of application except in the case of applications which require prior approval of the Government;

No.

Consular Wings in 93 Missions/Posts have been computerised and in the remaining Missions/Posts would be computerised by July 2007. In addition, outsourcing of visa applications collection is proposed to be undertaken in 30 Misisons/Posts to provide expeditious service to visa seekers. It is also proposed to improve the facilities in our consular/visa wings in Missions/Prosts abroad.

Transit Visa for Journey

4638. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

whether there has been any development in the pursuit of transit visa for journey by road from NE States to Kolkata through Bangladesh;

whether there is development; if so, the status thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes. Since September 2004, Bangladesh has been issuing double entry and exit visas to Indian citizens transiting from NE States to Kolkata through Bangladesh.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortage of Dwelling Units

4639 MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

whether there is shortage of 11 million dwelling units for urban poor in India;

if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to speed up construction of additional dwelling units to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Technical Group on Estimation constituted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has estimated housing shortage as 24.71 million in urban areas of the country as on 2007. At the beginning of 11th Five Year Plan). The category-wise break-up is as under:-

Category	Housing shortage in million as or 2007
EWS	21.78
LIG	2.89
MIG	0.04
HIG	
Total	24.71

(c) The Government has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Revewal Mission (JNNURM) to cope up with the problem of shortage in housing and infrastructure facilities in a misison mode for 63 select cities. Under Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP), a sub mission of JNNURM, provision of improved housing is aimed for urban poor. For remaining cities not covered under the Mission, a scheme namely, Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) has been launched along with JNNURM. The components of assistance under the scheme would include upgradation/new construction of houses and infrastructure facilities like water supply and sanitation as part of slum improvement. Both BSUP and IHSDP are under implementation since Devember, 2005.

Eradication of Poverty

4640. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts made to eradicate poverty have failed;